

## Message Text

SECRET

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62

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 SPC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PRS-01 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /061 W

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R 191515Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2410

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T ROME 14118

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN MOD VIEWS ON BURDEN SHARING

1. IN DEC 19 CONVERSATION, BRIG GEN SANTINI (CHIEF OF NATO OFFICE, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE) EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF HIS GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY THE RECENT DPC MEETING WENT. HE SAID THE ITALIANS WERE ESPECIALLY PLEASED WITH SEC SCHLESINGER'S INTERVENTION WHICH THEY HAVE INTERPRETED AS TAKING THE PRESSURE OFF THE BURDEN SHARING EXERCISE. SANTINI ADDED THAT MANY EUROPEANS HAVE SEIZED ON THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT THE SYMBOLIC ASPECT OF THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE ACCOUNTING ASPECT AND HIS EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR NATIONAL FORCE IMPROVEMENTS AS REMOVING THE LEGAL STRICTURES THEY HAD HERETOFORE BELIEVED IMPLICIT IN THE AMENDMENT.

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2. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THE LAW IS STILL ON THE BOOKS AND NO SUCH

CONCLUSION SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS. HE SAID THAT WHAT THE SECRETARY HAD UNDOUBTEDLY ATTEMPTED TO DO WAS ADDRESS BURDEN SHARING IN A LARGER, MORE PHILOSOPHICAL FRAMEWORK, AND THAT THE ACCOUNTING EXERCISE CALLED FOR BY THE AMENDMENT COULD NOT BE CANCELLED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH UNILATERALLY. SANTINI DID NOT ARGUE WITH THIS, BUT MERELY COMMENTED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IS INDEED CONFUSED.

3. COMMENT: WE GATHER THAT SANTINI'S INTERPRETATION IS SHARED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY JUDGING FROM A BRIEF CONVERSATION WE HAD WITH ITS PRINCIPAL NATO OFFICER. IF ITALIAN INTERPRETATION IS SHARED BY OTHERS AND ASSUMING LINE TAKEN BY EMBOFF IS CORRECT ONE, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ACT QUICKLY TO DISABUSE THE EUROPEANS OF THEIR PRESENT INTERPRETATION OF WHERE WE STAND ON BURDEN SHARING. IF WASHINGTON AGREES, WE SUSPECT THAT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN CONVERSATIONS BY EMBOFFS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. VOLPE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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